

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01368 191937Z

64 S

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-02 PRS-01 /048 W

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R 191735Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7514

INFO SECDEF

CSAF WASHINGTON DC/XOXXGIF

DIA WASHINGTON/AH-2

16AF, TORREJON AB, SP/CV

AFIS FT BELVOIR, VA/INS

7206 ABG ATHENAI AIRPORT/CC

98 STRAT WG, TORREJON AB, SP/CC

DET 3, 98 STRAT WG, ATHENAI AIRPORT/CC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, GR

SUBJ: GOG COMPLAINT REGARDING REFUELING OF F-4'S FOR
TURKEY BY KC-135 BOUND FOR ATHENS

REF: ATHENS 1299 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTS COMMENT BY HEAD OF GREEK TEAM
NEGOTIATING STATUS OF US FACILITIES TO HIS US COUNTERPART
DURING COURSE OF INFORMAL MEETING, IN WHICH FORMER HAD
CHARACTERIZED HELLENIKON (ATHENAI AB) AS "BURR UNDER THE
SADDLE OF THE GREEK MILITARY," THAT US HAD USED HELLENIKON
TO SERVICE AIRCRAFT BEING DELIVERED TO TURKEY. US
NEGOTIATOR HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INCIDENT HAD
OCCURRED IN WHICH KC-135 BOUND FOR ATHENS HAD BEEN USED TO
REFUEL F-4'S BOUND FOR TURKEY. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS PROVIDE
INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT.

2. USDAO ATHENS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM SAC DETACHMENT AT
ATHENAI AB TO SEEK DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE KC-135 AIRCRAFT
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TO LAND AT ATHENS AIRPORT ON 22 JAN. FLIGHT PLAN DATA

SHOWED DEPARTURE FROM TORREJON AB SPAIN WITH STANDARD AIRWAY ENTRY INTO ATHENS FIR AND PROCEEDING DIRECTLY TO ATHENS. STATED PURPOSE OF FLIGHT WAS AIRLIFT OF STAFF PERSONNEL TO ATHENS WITH AIRCRAFT REMAINING OVERNIGHT AND RETURNING TO TORREJON THE NEXT DAY. BASED ON THIS DATA, DAO OBTAINED DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FROM HELLENIC AIR FORCE (HAF).

3. AFTER THE FLIGHT WAS COMPLETED, THE HAF INFORMED THE AIRATT THAT PRIOR TO HEADING FOR ATHENS THE KC-135 APPARENTLY HAD REFUELED TWO F-4 AIRCRAFT ENROUTE FOR DELIVERY TO THE TURKISH AIRFORCE AND ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION. THE AIRATT QUERIED THE AIRCRAFT OPERATOR, ASCERTAINED THAT THE ALLEGATION WAS TRUE, AND BRIEFED THE EMBASSY ON THE DETAILS. THE AIRATT THEN MET WITH THE HAF OFFICIAL (CHIEF, FOREIGN LIAISON) RESPONSIBLE FOR AIRCRAFT DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCES AND EXPLAINED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE EXPLANATION, THIS OFFICIAL STATED HIS VIEW THAT THE FACTS INDICATED THE SITUATION HAD DEVELOPED FROM AN ISOLATED, THOUGHTLESS ACTION AND THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF DELIBERATE DECEPTION. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH HIS SUPERIORS, HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO IMPOSE A TEMPORARY RESTRICTION ON KC-135 LANDINGS AT ATHENS. HE NOTED CONCERN THAT THE INCIDENT MIGHT BE PICKED UP BY THE PRESS. HE IMPLIED THAT THE TEMPORARY RESTRICTION WAS IMPOSED TO PROTECT THE HAF FROM CRITICISM IN THE EVENT THE INCIDENT BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. HE ASKED THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ORIGINATORS OF KC-135 DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUESTS UNDERSTOOD THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE HAF REGARDED THE INCIDENT. THE AIR ATT PASSED ABOVE INFORMATION TO COMMANDER AT THE SAC DET AT ATHENS REQUESTING THAT IT BE DISSEMINATED TO THE RESPONSIBLE PERSONNEL.

4. COMMENT. THE FOREGOING UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF EXAMINING CAREFULLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT PREVIOUSLY MIGHT HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS ROUTINE ACTIONS BY US MILITARY AGENCIES BUT WHICH IN THE PERIOD SINCE JULY 1974 CAN CREATE UNNECESSARY POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN OUR EFFORT TO MAINTAIN US BASE RIGHTS.

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KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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